

THE VOICE OF FREEDOM.

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THE VOICE OF FREEDOM.

For the Voice of Freedom.

In his notes on 1 Tim. 1, 10, Mr. Scott says: "Men-stealers are inserted among these daring criminals, against whom the law of God directs its awful curses." These men-stealers were persons who kidnapped men to sell them for slaves; and this practice seems inseparable from the other iniquities and oppressions of slavery; nor can a slave-dealer easily keep from this criminality, if indeed, 'the receiver be as bad as the thief.' They who make war for the inhuman purpose of selling the vanquished for slaves, as is the practice among African princes, are really men-stealers. And they, who, like African traders, encourage their unchristian traffic, by purchasing that which they know, or have reason to suspect, to be thus unjustly acquired, are partakers in their crimes."

If these learned commentators are correct, as undoubtedly they are, then kidnappers, and all, who by wars or other violent measures reduce their fellow men to slavery, are men-stealers. And African traders, and all who abet, or encourage the Slave trade are accomplices, and in the judgment of God as bad as the thief. On the same principle, those governments, and courts, and editors, who tolerate, countenance, or do anything to help the kidnapper, or slave trader, in detaining his stolen property, or in carrying their purpose into effect, are really accomplices in their crimes. They help the ungodly, counteract the designs of God's law, and encourage the trade in man-stealing. And however they may escape punishment from men, God will not hold them guiltless.

Again, if the above sentiment be correct, then the Spaniards, who purchased Jinqua and his companions, and put them on board the *Amistad*, were man-stealers, and pirates, and as such they ought to be treated and be held responsible to the laws of God and man. When they purchased these Africans, they must have known, that they were *New Negroes*, directly from Africa, brought into Cuba in direct violation of the laws of Spain. And they purchased them, that they might carry out the intention of the piratical traders, and hold them in perpetual slavery. They must be accomplices then with the man-stealers and pirates, and should be seized and treated as felons. And if these Spaniards are felons by the law of God and men, then all, who take an active part to secure them from punishment, or to hold their victims and accomplish their felonious purposes are aiders and abettors of man-stealers. They are all linked in one chain of wickedness, partakers of the sin of kidnapping and piracy. And all their subtleties will be swept away by the light of eternity.

Again, if kidnappers and African princes, who make war on their neighbors, that they may reduce them to slavery, are men-stealers, what are those American planters, that purchase the stolen men, and help the kidnapper and African princes to carry out their wicked purpose? The partaker is the one that holds out the reward to the kidnapper, and encourage him to prosecute his criminal trade. Which then is the greater sinner?

Again, if it be a crime against which the curse of God is denounced to kidnap free persons and reduce them to slavery, what are the prospects of those slaveholders, who not only hold the persons, which they purchased of kidnappers, but reduce by violence every child born of their slaves. As a nation we have declared that all men are born free, and that this is a self evident truth. Every man then, who holds a child as a slave, is a kidnapper, as much so, as if he stole a person in Boston and sold him into slavery in Texas. And all laws made to justify such theft, are contrary to the law of God, a violation of every principle of humanity, and subversive of those fundamental principles, on which our civil constitutions are founded. And all churches and ministers who excuse, countenance or justify such laws, or tolerate slaveholding, are, according to the righteous judgment of God, partakers with man-stealers. "O my soul with their assemblies be not thou united!"

AN OLD MAN.

[The following comes from a brother in whose judgment we have great confidence.]

For the Voice of Freedom.

C. L. KNAPP, Esq.

Dear Sir:—There are weighty reasons for holding a Convention of our Congregational churches upon the subject of Slavery at no great distance of time. Even should the annual Convention of ministers conclude to address a letter to our southern brethren, there would still be ground for it. They are only ministers, and do not represent the churches, which ought to speak for themselves. There are, indeed, a few delegates among them from Associations; too few to be felt or give any tone to their proceedings—and representing but a small portion of the churches.

When it was proposed to call the Convention in the Chester (then the Black River) Association

which was held last February, one of the ulterior objects contemplated was to call a similar Convention afterwards from the whole state. The reasons which induced us to postpone that measure were chiefly two, and deserve consideration now.

1. Such a Convention, it is feared, would be attended by the representatives of very few churches. Suppose one half of the whole are favorable to some such action, though I hope that is rather less than the true number. But from them you must deduct a good many who would prefer to speak through the annual Convention of ministers. Others, again, will not risk the danger of disturbance among themselves, if they undertake to send a delegate. Others will be deterred by the distance and expense of the journey. You must also calculate that a number will be prevented by unexpected impediments. We invited nineteen churches to our Convention last winter; but only eleven attended, though universally favorable to the object. There is reason to fear, therefore, that the Convention, if called, would be a meagre one, and fall far short of justly representing the extent of anti-slavery sentiments in our churches. We should all regret to give the enemy so much ground for triumph.

2. The remonstrances of such a Convention, in consequence of their being a minority, would be very apt to produce an unhappy effect at the south. Those to whom we address ourselves, would reply at once, that we speak only for a few; while the majority are of a different opinion from us, as is evident from their silence. The voice of the church, as far as that is to be gathered from the action of the majority, they would be alighted to be in their favor. At any rate, it is obvious that we should lose all the advantage of speaking to them as one integral portion of Zion; since the mass of our denomination would not in appearance be united with us.

The proceedings in our late annual Convention greatly enhance this objection. Their refusal to act would go far to sustain such a course of argument, and nearly paralyze the influence of any Convention we could assemble at present.

At the same time there is strong ground to hope for a different result before long in our annual Convention. Their objections against action are such, it seems to me, as a little time and reflection will dispel. The brethren have been making advances every year; another may bring them to address the proposed letter.

These are some of my reasons for postponing a Convention of the churches for the present. I have been frequently asked by brethren, who shared in our councils last winter, and perhaps by others, whether I intended to abandon that part of our scheme. I have always found them satisfied with a temporary delay, and convinced of its propriety on the above grounds. And their uniform assent strongly confirms me in these views.

Respectfully,

Yours &c.

S. H. HODGES.

Chester, Oct. 22, 1839.

THE VERMONT CHRONICLE has found a hole in our coat. Under the title "Mr. Birney's Slaves," it avers that Mr. Birney forsook his principles and the principles of the Society, in becoming the legal owner of slaves "till the necessary papers could be prepared" for their emancipation. But Mr. Birney undoubtedly did right. Behold how false, then, is the doctrine, that it is sinful to sustain to a man the legal relation of an owner to a chattel! You may sustain that relation till the necessary papers are prepared. Well, Mr. Chronicle, may we sustain it any longer? If you say no, we will engage always to affirm to our denunciation of the sin of legal ownership, the clause—*except till the necessary papers can be prepared*. Our statement will read thus—The man who is legally a slave owner, is really a pirate and a man-stealer, *except from the moment when he ceases to be a slave owner ex-animò—till the necessary papers can be prepared*. Shall we not henceforth agree?—*Mass. Abolitionist*.

From the Pennsylvania Telegraph.

The fine satire of the following article is peculiarly applicable to the subject of Slavery. Henry Clay "the great man," can forcibly take, from sixty humble and obscure individuals, one hundred dollars each, every year, of the fruits of their industry, and yet escape punishment. But if one humble and obscure individual were to stop Henry Clay on the highway, and take from him only one dollar out of the many thousands which he has forcibly taken from others, the poor wretch would infallibly be sent to the penitentiary, instead of claiming a lodging in the Presidential house at Washington.

Old Elias Keys, formerly Judge of Windham county, Vt., was a strange composition of folly and good sense, of natural shrewdness, and a want of cultivation. I remember the substance of a sentence he pronounced upon a poor fellow for petit larceny. The case was stealing a pair of boots, from General Curtis, then a man of considerable wealth in the town of Windsor. It was proved that the General had lost his boots, and that of course he stole them; so at least said the jury, and a jury, you know are infallible.

Well, the Judge very gravely, previously to pronouncing the sentence of the court, undertook to read the young rascal a lecture. "You are a fine fellow," said his honor, "to be arraigned before this court for stealing. They say you are poor—no one doubts it, who looked at you; and how dare you, being poor, to have the impudence to steal a pair of boots? Nobody but rich people have a right to take such things without paying for them. They say you are worthless—that is evident from the fact that no one has ever asked justice to be done you; all by unanimous consent pronounced you guilty before you were tried. Now you, being so worthless as a fool to steal, because you might know you would be condemned. And then you perceive it was a great aggravation of your offence, that you stole them in the large town of Windsor. In that large town to commit such an act is most horrible. And you must not only go to Windsor to steal, but must steal from that great man General Curtis. This caps the climax of your iniquity. Base wretch, why did you not go and steal the only pair of boots which some poor man had or could get, and then you would have been left alone, nobody would have troubled themselves about the act. For your audacity in stealing in the great town of Windsor, and from the great General Curtis, the Court sentences you to three months imprisonment in the county jail, and God give you something to eat."

LEGISLATURE OF VERMONT.

From Walton's Daily Journal.

SENATE.

Prayer by the chaplain.

Revised Statutes.—Chap. 35, of "jurors," chap. 36, of "accounts," chap. 37, of "writs of error, &c.," chap. 38, of "habeas corpus," severally read a third time and passed; chap. 42, of the "levy of executions," twice read and referred to the com. on the Judiciary; chap. 43, of the "sessions of courts," twice read and referred to Messrs. Pierpont, Cobb and Converse; chap. 49, of the "partition of real estate," reported by Mr. Noble, read a third time and passed; chap. 27, of "trustees," reported by Mr. Robinson, that the same ought not to pass—laid upon the table on motion of Mr. Kittredge; chap. 35, of "ejectment," chap. 39, of "foreclosure of grants," and of "new trials," reported by Mr. McMillan, without amendment, severally read a third time and passed; chap. 18, of "common schools," called up by Mr. Hemenway, who proposed an amendment, providing for distribution of public school money, at the discretion of towns, equally to all districts, not exceeding one half the entire sum, laid upon table.

Reports.—By Mr. Swift, the bill annexing a part of the town of Orwell, to the town of Whiting, with an amendment, providing that the inhabitants of said town assent to the annexation. Amendment adopted, and the bill read a third time and passed; by Mr. Bowen, the bill relating to the State Prison, with proposal of amendment giving the chaplain a salary of \$400 annually. Amendment adopted, when Mr. Townsley moved that the bill be indefinitely postponed. This motion was supported by Mr. Kittredge, and carried, yeas 25, nays 3, and the bill was indefinitely postponed.

Bills.—From the House, incorporating the *Memphremagog* Literary and Theological Seminary, at Derby, twice read and referred to com. on education; repealing the act of the last session rechartering the Bank of Montpelier, twice read and referred to com. on Banks, in addition to the act incorporating the *Vt. Mutual Fire Insurance Company*, twice read and referred to committee on the Judiciary; to pay Chauncey Goodrich \$85 dollars twice read and referred to committee on claims; to pay Lewis Soule, the sum of \$380.78 for losses sustained by the nonintercourse act of 1812 twice read and referred to the committee on finance.

Resolutions.—Providing for the purchase of five maps of this state, called up by Mr. Swift, and passed; by Mr. Marsh authorizing the Secretary of State, to purchase for the state ten copies of Slade's state papers; read and passed.

Bills.—To pay Chauncey Goodrich the sum mentioned, reported by Mr. Cobb, read a third time and passed; to pay Lewis Soule the sum mentioned, reported by com. and the com. was discharged from the further consideration of the bill; for the relief of Gershom Conger, reported by Mr. Townsley, without amendment. A statement of facts was made in the case by which it appeared that Capt. Conger had been deprived of his commission by court martial and disqualified for holding any military office in this state, and prays to be restored to his lost military privilege. The Senate refused to pass the bill, repealing the act rechartering the Bank of Montpelier reported by the committee on Banks, and ordered to a third reading.

Mr. Eaton, of the Committee of Education, made a written report in favor of a Geological Survey of this state at a future time. Laid upon the table.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Prayer by the Rev. E. Smith.

Messrs. Dillingham, Hodges, Warner of New-haven, and Stark, were appointed committee on the report of the Trustees of the *Vt. Asylum for the Insane*.

Resolutions.—From the Senate, to furnish the American Antiquarian Society certain state documents; passed. By Mr. Partridge, that it is inexpedient to recharter any Banks at this session—made the order of the day for to-morrow morning. By Mr. Bard, as to the expediency of enlarging the number of Assistant Surgeons in the militia, and of their appointment by the commissioned Officers of the several regiments; passed.

Petitions.—Of males and females of Windham, referred to Temperance Committee.

Reports of Committees.—By committee of Claims against the petition for an increase of the salary of the chaplain of the State Prison; committed to a select com. of three. By com. on Education, bill establishing Hartford Academy, ordered to a third reading.

Bills.—By Mr. Parker of Bradford, removing Caledonia Co. buildings to St. Johnsbury or Lyndon, as shall be designated by com. hereafter to be appointed by the House; laid on the table, and made the order of the day for Wednesday morning.

Engrossed Bills.—In addition to act incorporating the *Vt. Mutual Fire Insurance Co.* to incorporate *Memphremagog* Literary and Theological Seminary; to repeal act extending charter of the bank of Montpelier; to pay Louis Soule \$380.78 and to pay C. Goodrich \$855; severally passed. To compensate the Superintendent of the Vermont State Prison; laid on the table. Taxing the lands in Cambridge formerly embraced in the town of Sterling; passed.

Mr. Brown called up the bill repealing the 2nd section of the act of 1838, relative to the Rutland and Whitehall Railroad Co.—being the section reserving power to future legislatures to amend or repeal the charter. Mr. Partridge opposed the bill, as also did Mr. Dillingham, on the ground that it was a departure from a general principle, well established by previous legislatures, with reference to all acts of incorporations. Mr. Hodges and Mr. Fullam supported the bill, for the reasons that the

section, which was proposed to be repealed, so far deterred capitalists from taking stock as to render the act of incorporation entirely useless; and that, instance, no possible injury could arise, either to individuals or to the state, by exempting the company from the operation of this section. Ayes 25, nays 165; so the bill was rejected.

The bill in favor of John S. Pettibone was taken up; Mr. Brown moved to strike out \$24 and insert \$60; laid on the table.

The House resumed consideration of the report of the committee on Banks; and, after some discussion by Messrs. Fullam, Dillingham, Needham, Brown, Chandler, and others, it was laid on the table and made the order of the day, for Tuesday morning.

The House resumed consideration of the bill for the relief of Henry Damon, the principal facts proved in the case were read, and the bill was ordered to a 3d reading, unanimously.

Adjourned.

FRIDAY, 2 o'clock, P. M.

SENATE.

Bills.—From the House, in alteration of an act incorporating the *Vt. Mutual Fire Insurance Company*, reported by the committee on the Judiciary with the opinion that no such legislation is necessary; and the Senate resolved not to concur with the House in its passage; relating to acknowledgment of deeds in foreign countries, reported by Mr. Robinson, that the revised statutes supercede the necessity of passing the bill; by Mr. Townsley, incorporating the Windham County Provident Institution of savings, at Brattleboro' twice read and referred to committee on finance.

Revised Statutes.—Chap. 49, of "Probate Courts," chap. 45, of "estates in dower," chap. 46, of "title to real estate in descent," twice read and referred to Messrs. Pierpont, Cobb and Converse.

The Senate went into joint assembly, returned and after the reading and reference of a few chapters of the Revised Statutes.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Messrs. Dillingham, Ellsworth and Young were appointed com. on the memorial of the Chaplain of the State Prison.

Mr. Fairbanks was excused from the com. on the petition of J. W. Hubbard, & Mr. Wentworth appointed in his place.

Revised Statutes.—Chapter 9, of counties, passed. Chap. 27, of common law, was reported; Mr. Partridge moved to postpone it to the last day of the session; supported by Mr. Partridge and opposed by Mr. Chandler, yeas 34 nays 159, and the bill was ordered to a 3d reading. Chap. 34, of offenses, and chap. 31, of depositions and witnesses, referred to Messrs. Needham and Baxter. Chap. 32, of juries, and chapter 38, of habeas corpus, referred to the Judiciary Committee. Chap. 33, of new trials, referred to Messrs. Brown and Hazen.

The Senate having met in joint assembly the following appointments were made:

Orange County.

Asa Story, Sheriff.

Win. Spencer, Judge of Probate for the District of Bradford.

Caledonia Co.

Marcus O. Fisher, } Assistant Justices

E. B. Chase, }

John Currier, Sheriff.

Issac N. Hall, High Bailiff.

Thos. Bartlett, Jr., State's Attorney.

Saml. B. Mattocks, Judge of Probate.

Salma Davis, Geo. W. Drew, Saml. Sias, Jail Commissioners.

Calvin Morrill, Inspector of Hops.

Grand Isle Co.

Calvin Fletcher, } Asst. Justices.

Joseph M. Mott, }

Gary Whitney, Sheriff.

Pardon Ducl, High Bailiff.

Frederick Hazen, State's Attorney.

Joel Allen, Judge of Probate.

Wm. H. Russell, Elihu Parks, Jesse Hazen, Jail Commissioners.

B. S. Phelps, Wm. Brewer, Hop Inspectors.

The Joint assembly adjourned to Wednesday next, 3 o'clock P. M. and the Senate withdrew.

Adjourned.

SATURDAY, Oct. 27, 1839.

SENATE.

Prayer by the Chaplain.

Revised Statutes.—Chapters 57, 58, 59 and 60, were severally twice read and referred to committees; chap. 61, and 62, severally twice read and referred to Messrs. Cobb, Chandler and Foster; chapters 63 and 64, severally twice read and referred to Messrs. Swift, Edson and Beaton; chap. 65, twice read and referred to Messrs. Noble, Hoyt and Jenness; chap. 66, the same reading and referred; chap. 67, twice read and referred to Messrs. Bowen, Harvey and Watterman; chap. 30, of "replevin," made the order for this morning, was taken up, its provisions commented upon by Mr. Pierpont, and the chapter again laid upon the table; chap. 9, of "counties," an amendment by the House, concurred in, and the chapter passed; chap. 86, of "land taxes," reported by Mr. Marsh, with a proposal of amendment, which was concurred in, and the chapter read a third time and passed; chap. 55, of the "appointment of trustees of minors," chap. 56, of "probate bonds" &c., severally reported by Mr. Noble; chap. 55, read a third time and passed, chap. 56, laid upon the table; chap. 54, of "estates," reported by Mr. Noble, read a third time and passed; chap. 47, of "wills," reported by Mr. Jones, and ordered to a third reading; chap. 48, of "letters testamentary," also reported by Mr. Jones, read a third time and passed; chap. 49, of the administration and distribution of estates of intestates, read a third time and passed; chapters 51, 52 and 53, all relating to the settlement of estates, reported by Mr. McMillan, without amendment, severally read a third time and passed.

Bills.—From the House, for the relief of Henry Damon, read and referred to a select committee. Messrs. Cobb, Converse and Robinson; incorporating the *Memphremagog* Literary institution, reported by committee on Education, with a proposal of amendment, which was concurred in,

and the bill was read a 3d time and passed: repealing the act of the last session, rechartering the Bank of Montpelier, read a third time and passed; laying a tax of 3 cents per acre on lands in that part of Cambridge formerly annexed to Sterling, twice read and referred to com. on land taxes; establishing an academy in the town of Hartford, twice read and referred to com. on education. Adj.

HOUSE.

Prayer by Rev. S. Kellogg. *Petitions*.—Of Inhabitants of Hardwick, one on Slavery, and one on the traffic in ardent spirits, referred to appropriate committees.

Reports of Committees.—By com. on Military Affairs, against bill relating to Cambridge Artillery Co; laid on the table. By Select Committee, against the petition of Jabez Hazen, and in favour of bill granting ferry to Abel Phelps; recommended. By com. of Claims, against the account of Wm. W. Goodell, and the claimant had leave to withdraw. By General Committee, against petitions and bill for the annexation of part of Shelburn to St. George—bill dismissed; bill to annex part of Westminster to Athens, ordered to a 3d reading. By com. on Roads and Canals, that the Directors of Passumpsic Turnpike Co. have liberty to withdraw their petition—concurred in; against the bill relative to highways, laid on the table.

Engrossed Bills.—Establishing an Academy at Hartford, taxing part of Cambridge, for the relief of Henry Damon; severally passed.

Resolutions.—From the Senate, to procure 10 copies of Slade's State Papers for the State; passed. By Mr. Butler, as to the expediency of additional provisions for securing the collection of debts of persons about to abscond, &c., passed.

The bill to annex part of Orwell to Whiting was returned by the Senate with an amendment; laid on the table.

The House resumed the consideration of Mr. Partridge's resolution against chartering any banks at this session; when Mr. Stark moved a substitute for it, embracing the following propositions: no bank to be rechartered unless on the following conditions: 1st to secure bill holders against loss; 2d, to be exempted from safety fund act; 3d, to be subjected to alteration or amendment at any future legislature; 4th, to be subjected to repeal, when the legislature shall be of the opinion that the bank has violated its charter or so conducted as to become prejudicial to the public interests; 5th, to be allowed to issue \$3 for \$1 paid in; 6th, officers to be subjected to penal punishment for mal conduct. Mr. Partridge opposed the substitute; and the whole subject was made the order of the day for Friday morning next.

Mr. Stark introduced a bill to provide for the security of bill holders on the closing of banks; referred to a select committee of three.

Mr. Brown introduced a resolution for a com. to examine the Windsor and Essex, banks, &c.—amendment of the Senate concurred in.

Adj.

2 o'clock P. M.

SENATE.

Revised Statutes.—Chap. 67, reported without amendment, ordered to be read the third time on Monday morning; chap. 56, of "probate bonds" &c., read a third time and passed; chap. 50, read a third time and passed.

Mr. Holmes from the com. on land tax, reported on a bill laying a tax on part of Cambridge without amendment, ordered to be read a third time on Monday morning.

Mr. Edson from the com. on Education reported the bill establishing an academy at Hartford, without amendment, and the bill was read the third time and passed.

Bill.—To pay Lewis Soule the sum therein mentioned, reported by the com., facts stated, and the bill, on motion of Mr. Pierpont, laid upon the table. Adj.

HOUSE.

Revised Statutes.—Chap. 33, of new trials, read a 3d time and passed. Chap. 28, of process, referred to the Judiciary Committee. Chap. 37, of writs of error and audita querela, was read; and no quorum being present, and adjournment was moved—negated; a call of the House was moved—yeas 58, nays 34; carried, and upon the call 121 answered to their names, and further proceedings in the call was dispensed with. Chap. 37, was read a 2d time and referred to the Judiciary Committee. Chap. 36, of accounts, twice read and referred to Judiciary Committee.

Resolution.—By Mr. Brown, for the reception and reference of proposed amendments to the revised statutes; passed. Adj.

MONDAY, Oct. 28, 1839.

SENATE.

Prayer by the chaplain.

Bills.—Laying a tax on part of lands in Cambridge, read a 3d time and passed; Mr. Edson called for a statement of facts, which was given by Mr. Holmes, of the com. on land taxes showing that the lands proposed to be taxed were originally a part of the town of Sterling. Mr. Edson could see no reason why a part only of the lands in any one town should be taxed; bill laid upon the table.

Revised Statutes.—Chapter 67, of "illegitimate children," read a third time and passed; chap. 33, of "new trials," from the House with a proposal of amendment, which was concurred in; title 33, of "crimes and punishments," referred to Messrs. Pierpont, Edgerton and Adams; title 18, of the regulation of trade in certain cases, embracing eight chapters, considered, on motion of Mr. Kittredge; chap. 63, of "divorce," reported by Mr. Swift, with proposal of amendment, which was concurred in, and the chapter was read a 3d time and passed; chap. 63, of "inspection of provisions and manufactures," twice read and referred to committee. The remainder of the forenoon was principally devoted to the reading and reference of chapters on the regulation of trade in certain cases. Adjourned.

HOUSE.

Prayer by Rev. E. Smith.

Messrs. Smith of Wilmington, and Newell obtained leave of absence after Wednesday morning.

Resolutions.—By Mr. Hayward, for adjournment of the Legislature on the 1st Wednesday of Nov.